



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Prime Minister Delivers National Address

EA1708090595 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 16 Aug 95

[Address to nation by Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo on 16 August; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The crisis that has lasted for almost two years today brings the government to once again deplore the size of the human and material damage, and call on all politicians, as well as those forces active in this country, to redouble their efforts for the moral and physical reconstruction of the nation. The task is huge and complicated. We will therefore have to mobilize our efforts.

That said, where security is concerned the government notes that, except in the western part of Burundi, the situation has improved noticeably in the rest of the country, which augurs well for the return of the displaced, those who have been dispersed and refugees, and for their resumption of work.

The members of the government, meeting in extraordinary cabinet meetings on 11 and 14 August 1995, make a point of noting with renewed vigor the fight for peace. They would like to reassure the population that the government is determined to bring Burundi's future and destiny under its control. That is why I have the honor and pleasure of informing the Burundian people and world of the following:

1. The government reaffirms its support for the government convention and will do everything to ensure its strict application. It calls on all the other parties to the convention to do so as well.
2. The government reiterates its firm commitment to restore peace, security, and reconciliation among Burundians.
3. The government congratulates and supports the security forces who, during this crisis, and despite the difficult circumstances, have acquitted themselves with bravery and dignity in the course of their traditional duties, which involve ensuring and defending the integrity of Burundi's territory, maintaining and establishing order and public security and defending national institutions.

The government calls on all those in the political arena to pay the government the respect that it deserves and to avoid saying anything that could remove or reduce its courage, especially at this time when it is engaged with the enemy.

We call on these same guardians of security and order to continue to ensure the security of all Burundians,

and ask them not to give in to partisan appeals which could make them deviate from their natural mission. We encourage them to be constantly assured of the cooperation of the population and administration, and invite (?their commanders) to act very ruthlessly against elements who, in the field, deviate from the respect of norms relating to the maintenance of security and order.

4. The government will do everything to create the necessary conditions for the return of displaced and dispersed people to normal life, and invites refugees to return to the country. The domestic situation is improving noticeably. The action plan to rehabilitate and reintroduce all those who have had to leave their property has already been drawn up and will be implemented immediately. The success of this project will depend on the positive contribution of Burundians and the international community.

5. The population is called on to reassure itself and convince itself that no group can benefit alone from the security of development if the other group does not do so as well. In particular the balkanization of districts in the mayorship of Bujumbura and the hills and communes in the interior of the country must be banished for ever. Political and ethnic exclusion should cease in the public sector and in all social relations.

Those who have remained behind should understand that their security will only be guaranteed when those who have left their hills or districts have returned.

The people are also called on to systematically dissociate themselves from the armed groups that are dragging them into a war whose supporters and [word indistinct] they cannot identify. We strongly advise the people not to pay attention to the divisive and suicidal information coming from the pirate radio, Radio Rutomorongoro, which wants to say goodbye to democracy. Only cooperation with the security forces and local administration will be able to shield the population from torment, violence, and internal or external exile.

6. The government strongly denounces foreign armed involvement, especially by elements from the former Rwandan army, in the destabilization of Burundi, and commits itself to fighting and applying the rule of law to all warmongers, be they from the interior or exterior and regardless of political or ethnic group. It calls on foreign partners and all neighboring countries to respect commitments made in the bilateral, subregional, and international framework concerning security and the management of refugees.

7. The government will do all it can to implement special measures to reinforce security and return confidence to Burundians. Most of them are already being

implemented. We will do everything possible to protect the innocent population, and in this regard the government intends to set up specialized security units, especially antiterrorist [word indistinct] intervention groups [Groupes d'Intervention [word indistinct] antiterroriste], whose acronym is (?Giat), which are already operating, but which have yet to be appropriately equipped. It also intends to set up special disarmament units, which will have the acronym USD [Unites Speciales de Desarmement].

The formal texts dealing with the creation and organization of these units have already been submitted to the government for examination and decisions.

8. In the framework of the struggle against impunity the government has just officially submitted a request and terms of reference for an international judicial commission of inquiry to the United Nations. The principles for its establishment were publicly accepted by the secretary general of the UN during his recent visit to Burundi as well as before the Security Council.

9. The government is preparing itself to receive the provisional report by the technical commission charged with preparing the national debate on the country's fundamental problems in September, which will allow it to organize without delay the said debate. This will examine a new political system and a new institutional set-up which is viable for all.

10. In conclusion, the government will see to it that the population is mobilized for work and production in the framework of the government's action plan. The plan for the reconstruction and relaunch of the economy will be pursued in a collected manner, with the cooperation of the international community in certain areas.

Dear compatriots: The government renews its commitment to peace, reconciliation, and national reconstruction. We are counting greatly on your support and determination to bring Burundi out of the crisis and stabilize the country in every area. This challenge is vital.

The government has understood this. That is why we are announcing, with pleasure, the immediate start of the third phase of the awareness campaign for the return to peace and security. Particular stress will be attached to the campaign in the capital, Bujumbura.

We call on the political parties, the National Assembly, civil and youth associations, the forces of order and the magistrature, to stand with the government to succeed in the challenge of national recovery. We do not have the right to fail. May Burundi live.

Rwanda

President Begins Talks With Uganda's Museveni

EA1508184495 Kampala Radio Uganda Network
in English 1000 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Official talks have opened between the Government of Rwanda and the Government of Uganda. They were opened yesterday by Presidents Pasteur Bizimungu and Yoweri Museveni in Kigali.

President Bizimungu said that today's Rwanda can learn a great deal from Uganda, which has recovered after having gone through a similarly devastating tragedy as the one Rwanda went through last year. He said that after two decades of authoritarian rule in Uganda, during which the country was devastated and the economic infrastructure totally destroyed, Uganda has rebuilt the economy and social fabric to a level acclaimed internationally. This, he said, is evidence that a country as devastated as Rwanda can recover.

He hailed the new era of mutual confidence and cooperation between the two sister countries which, he said, augurs well for the discussion of bilateral matters that are more meaningful to the welfare of the two peoples. Mr. Bizimungu said that there are many areas where the two countries can and should cooperate closely and for mutual benefit, per chance agriculture and animal industry, commerce and industry, transport and communications, energy, finance, especially in the fields privatization and tax collection, defense and internal security, justice and education. He thanked the Government of Uganda for sending economic officials to Rwanda for exchange experience and know-how in some areas where Rwanda needs assistance. Mr. Bizimungu hailed President Museveni for his contribution toward regional cooperation.

On his part, President Museveni expressed the solidarity of the people and the Government of Uganda with the people and government of Rwanda. He totally condemned last year's genocide and referred to the authors of the horrendous tragedy as criminals whom he likened to Amin and Hitler.

Mr. Museveni called on the Government of Rwanda to look for creative ways of resolving the refugee problem without compromising principles and without encouraging impunity. He also called for more concerted efforts to allow free movement of people and goods between Uganda and Rwanda as the best way of nurturing healthier and larger economies.

Museveni on Need For Reconciliation

EA1608101795 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French
1800 GMT 15 (rpt 15) Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning, [Ugandan President] Yoweri Museveni, accompanied by his Rwandan counterpart, Pasteur Bizimungu, visited Gisenyi where the Ugandan leader addressed the local population.

In his speech, President Museveni praised the RPA [Rwandan Patriotic Army] soldiers for halting the genocide and massacres in Rwanda. [passage omitted]

President Museveni said the masterminds behind the genocide should be hanged. The problem that remains is to reconcile those who were misled into committing the massacres with the survivors.

The Ugandan head of state pointed out that the same problem existed in Uganda under presidents Idi Amin and Milton Obote. But, he said, we were able to overcome this problem in order to build a society in which all Ugandans could coexist.

The perpetrators of the genocide who intend to attack Rwanda, with the justification that they are backed by some countries, do not know what war involves. President Museveni said that Uganda will take measures against members of the Interahamwe militia who cross Ugandan territory in order to attack Rwanda.

The same language was used yesterday when the Ugandan president made a speech before the Transitional National Assembly and the government at Kimihurura.

Museveni Addresses Kigali Citizens

EA1708104095 Kigali Radio Rwanda
in Kinyarwanda 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Concerning the meeting with Kigali inhabitants at the Amahoro Stadium in Remera, President Pasteur Bizimungu said in his welcoming speech that President [Yoweri] Museveni's visit after the genocide is an indication of his support for Rwandans. He said that Rwanda had many things to learn from Uganda since this country had experienced dictatorship over a long period of time, but had become an exemplary country in economic and security matters.

[Passage omitted] The Ugandan president also said that when he was fighting Obote, the latter consistently said over radios that he was being fought by Rwandans. President Museveni then said: Looking at it in detail, in my pedigree of over 1,000 years, I have no Rwandan blood at all. Therefore, he said, Rwandans have become scapegoats for Obote. He said: What is good is that no

one is making you scapegoats since you have returned home and have your own country. [passage omitted]

Rwandans Urged To Pursue Perpetrators

EA1608201995 Kampala Radio Uganda Network
in English 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President Yoweri Museveni has told the people of Rwanda that Africans are entitled to live in dignity in their homes, and that no regime has the right to stop them from living in peace in their places of birth.

The president was addressing a public rally this morning at Amahoro Stadium in Kigali on the third day of his state visit to Rwanda. He said that any regime that tries to stop people from peacefully living in their place of birth becomes illegal.

Reacting to the theme of a song which had just been played by the band, Mr. Museveni said that the song, a Tanzanian one called (Nymatararayu), to be sung by freedom fighters in Tanzania during the struggle to remove Idi Amin, saying that the song and others of its kind have become songs for freedom in Africa. [sentence as heard] He said the song for freedom is continuing in Africa, and is unstoppable until the whole of Africa is free of misrule.

Mr. Museveni congratulated the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] upon defeating a regime that had divided the people of Rwanda for so long. He expounded on this, and observed that leadership means trust, and if any leadership abuses this trust the power should be removed from it. He blamed colonialists and local opportunists who, instead of solving the solvable problems which Rwanda has, had magnified them into something very big, which finally resulted into the genocide of last year and in mutual massacres between Batutsi and Bahutu in Burundi.

He urged the African people to work to unite the exploited in order to fight their exploiters, saying that the tragedies in Rwanda and Burundi have come about because the colonialists and local opportunists divided and exploited them instead of uniting them.

Mr. Museveni urged the people of Rwanda to be cool-headed in handling the consequences of genocide. He explained that Africa is now at the sunset of colonialism and its legacy, adding that we must ensure that in making its final exit, the legacy of colonialism does not take along our people.

He called for expediting of the punishment of the authors of the genocide, and said if the international community does not work fast on this matter that the

government of Rwanda has every right to take up the task and accomplish it itself.

Mr. Museveni gave the example of Israel, which has been hunting Nazi criminals who massacred Jews for the last 50 years. He said the Jews had the total sympathy of the whole world.

Mr. Museveni advised the people of Rwanda to also deal with those who were used in the genocide, but to do so in a flexible manner, and cited the example of Uganda, where the NRM [National Resistance Movement] has deliberately differentiated between the leaders and the misled. He also said that the victims of the genocide need special programs to assist them to start a new life.

The president was also happy to learn that the big majority of Rwandans are in Rwanda, noting that out of a total population of 8.8m, one million had been killed, 1.5m fled and now 6.3m are within the country, many having returned from exile.

He advised the leadership in Rwanda to work and set up programs to ensure that all [word indistinct] majority of those who ran away come back.

Commenting on press reports that some elements of the former Rwandese regime are regrouping to attack Rwanda and kill people, Mr. Museveni expressed confidence that the backward forces in Africa can no longer divert the progressive forces from their goal of uniting the people of Africa and transforming Africa into a modern society. He said the progressive forces in Africa must be cool-headed and reasonable in forging harmony around the various groups in Africa, while at the same time being resolute in protecting the gains made toward a good future for Africa.

The president was welcomed to Amahoro Stadium by President Pasteur Bizimungu. [passage omitted]

Museveni Signs Communique, Ends Visit

*EA1608200095 Kigali Radio Rwanda
in Kinyarwanda 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni this evening returned home at the end of a three-day visit to our country.

This morning President Museveni, accompanied by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, visited Kigali inhabitants, as well as the Mutara area and Nyarubuye, which are in the Rusumo Commune.

In the afternoon, President Museveni held a news conference. The two heads of state signed a communique at the end of the Ugandan head of state's visit.

Sao Tome and Principe

Reportage on Second Day of Military Coup d'Etat

Countries Welcome Ousted President

*AB1608150095 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in the capital of the Sao Tome and Principe Archipelago is slowly returning to normal a day after the military coup d'etat that toppled President Miguel Trovoada. Administrative offices reopened their doors along with shops this morning. Only the airport of the city and banks remained closed. Banks are under the surveillance of the military who want to prevent people from withdrawing currency.

Meanwhile, more is now known about the fate of President Trovoada and the intention of the rebel soldiers. Details with Francois-Luc Moukouangui:

[Begin Moukouangui recording] The immediate feeling is that the rebel soldiers are ready to go back to the barracks. They are giving themselves a 90-day term, a delay they consider sufficient to organize general elections. Meanwhile, there is the transition period to manage and it is hand in hand that the rebel soldiers intend to manage this period. The junta will be composed of military and civilians. Broad-based contacts are taking place in the island and even better, Miguel Trovoada is invited to follow this process.

A part from the preparation of the elections, the rebel soldiers announced another crusade: They pledged to fight corruption, indiscipline, and laziness. In a word, they want to give a new impulse to Sao Tome and Principe. And this is in the strict regard to the human rights principles. That is why, this very day, former President Miguel Trovoada will leave the Army Headquarters for a villa located near the presidential palace where he will be allowed to meet whoever he wants and lead a normal life, the rebel soldiers said.

In the light of this declaration and due to the fact that the coup was bloodless, the rebel soldiers are determined to have a decent image. The question is: Isn't this an attitude aimed at cushioning the general outcry triggered throughout the world by this punch against democracy? Aren't they just empty words? We have already heard the military, who staged a coup, assure the public and the world of a rapid return to civilian rule and still struggle to maintain themselves in power indefinitely because of its advantages? Let us wait and see. [end recording]

In any case, Portugal, the former colonial power in Sao Tome, said she is ready to welcome the ousted

president. Portuguese President Mario Soares himself made this known to the Sao Tomean rebel soldiers. He also expressed concern facing the current situation prevailing in Sao Tome and Principe and is said to have been guaranteed that there will be no human rights violation.

Angola President Jose Eduardo dos Santos also said he was ready to receive ousted President Miguel Trovoada and his prime minister in his country. He also offered to mediate in the relations between the sides in conflict in order to help them establish democratic order that was freely chosen by the people of Sao Tome and Principe, a release published by the Angolan Embassy in Lisbon, said.

The Angolan head of state is the second African leader to propose his goodwill mediation in the Sao Tomean conflict after his Gabonese counterpart, Alhadj Omar Bongo who spontaneously reacted just after the coup d'etat in that country.

Coup Leader Suggests Handover in 3 Months

AB1608164595 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 16 aug 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It a second day since the 600-strong Army in Sao Tome staged a coup, toppling the government of President Miguel Trovoada. The coup is launched at a time when the islands face seemingly insurmountable economic problems. What the soldier's can do about it must remain to be seen. They seem a little confused about their own role, but they have set up a ruling junta of national salvation. Here's Alice Martin:

[Begin recording] [Martin] Reports from Sao Tome indicate that coup leaders have been holding talks with politicians in the country to enlarge the junta of national salvation, which so far has two members — Sub-Lieutenant Manuel Almeida and Sub-Lieutenant Fernando Ponce, also known as Crack Shot. Sub-Lt. Ponce has assumed leadership of the junta for the moment, and has been reported to suggest that the junta will rule for an interim period of three months until elections are held. This morning, Sub-Lt. Ponce spoke to the BBC's Portuguese service:

[Ponce, speaking in Portuguese fading into English translation] We are counting on the support of everyone in Sao Tome and on anybody else, even over there in London, anyone who is interested in coming over and helping us. We need all the help we can get. We've talked to President Trovoada about ways that we can work together, and as far as the prime minister is concerned, we're quite happy to work with him as well.

You could say that this coup d'etat has been democratic, since we haven't killed anybody. What we want now is for the country to function normally. We are having plenty of discussions. Let's not beat about the bush. A place like this doesn't really need more than four ministries or so. We want to put a democratic system in place, something more transparent than the last one. We don't want a so-called democratic system that's based on money alone. We want something more just. Other countries seem to manage it, why can't we?

[Martin] Countries including Angola, Portugal, and France have been quick to condemn the coup d'etat in Sao Tome, and there have been threats to cut off aid from the European Union. In reply to the international condemnation, Sub-Lt. Ponce had this to say:

[Ponce] Let me say it's traditional for developed countries to disapprove of coup d'etats, but developed countries should change their way of thinking. After a coup like this, they should send observers and then decide what they think. I can't believe that developed countries can come out with statements like they do, without really knowing what they're talking about.

[Martin] Sao Tome lies off the coast of Gabon. This morning, President Omar Bongo of Gabon offered his services to the country. Speaking to a radio station in Gabon, he said that, as a more or less neighboring country, I too am ready to offer my good offices between the soldiers and the president of the Republic. In Sao Tome itself, banks and other public institutions are closed, but life is gradually returning to the streets and marketplace. The national radio continues to broadcast music, and the television is rebroadcasting Portuguese films from a Lisbon-based television station. [end recording]

President Trovoada's Son 'Concerned'

LD1608180495 Lisbon Radio Renascenca
in Portuguese to Europe 1030 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Miguel Trovoada of Sao Tome has refused a proposal by the military to be part of the junta. Contrary to what has been reported today, President Trovoada is still under arrest at the headquarters of the armed forces and the members of his family are refusing to move from the presidential palace. Patrice Trovoada, the eldest son of the deposed president and spokesman for the Trovoadas, gave his first interview — an exclusive interview — moments ago. He spoke to Antonio Pacheco about the situation in Sao Tome and told him he is concerned with his father's safety:

[Begin recording] [Patrice Trovoada] It is obvious that we are all concerned with him. We do not know exactly what is happening in Sao Tome, the situation

is extremely confusing and we feel that the president's safety is still under threat. We are dealing with a coup and, what also concerns us, is that the president seems to be the only politician who has been arrested so far.

[Pacheco] What do you think will happen? According to what we heard, the members of the junta invited your father to join them. What do you think will happen next?

[Trovoada] There are some things I do not understand. The junta claims that there was a coup. I think that the international community and all those who believe in democracy in Sao Tome want democracy to be restored. The president is there to ensure that the country's constitution is followed, he cannot be a member of a junta. Sao Tome and Principe has had to deal with several problems which are not new, but there is a democratically elected government to deal with those problems.

[Pacheco] Do you think there may be some kind of internal or external political force behind this military uprising, or do you think that this is a mere corporate movement?

[Trovoada] I do not know. I simply feel that, whether or not there are political forces behind all this, this kind of attitude does not lead to solutions. This kind of attitude leads, sooner or later, to deadlock. With or without Miguel Trovoada, they will come to deadlock and people will have to return to attitudes and the kind of feelings which are responsible. We will have to restore democracy, we will have to safeguard human lives, and we will have to draw some conclusion from this whole situation. This means that all that we have lost and have been losing in the past few hours will have to be recovered. [end recording]

Prime Minister da Graca on Situation

LD1608183295 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The coup in Sao Tome and Principe may be followed by elections. The military and politicians have been holding talks. The rebels want elections within three months and this is one of the ideas which is being considered by the political parties. The dialogue continues tomorrow morning but, in the meantime, there is still a curfew and President Miguel Trovoada is now under house arrest. The former members of the government are now banned from talking to the media and it was exactly with this in mind that we talked to Prime Minister Carlos da Graca moments ago. He is now holding a meeting with his party's political commission to study the proposals that the military made this afternoon:

[Begin da Graca recording] We went to the meeting, we heard their points of view and their proposals, and we have asked for time to think about it all. There is no doubt that the situation is difficult, not so much in national terms but in international terms. The situation is rather complex for there has been a great rejection by our international partners, but I feel that, in view of that and in view of the need for all parties to conjugate efforts and find a way out of the crisis, I think it is possible for the dialogue to lead to a solution which may be acceptable for the country's future. [end recording]

Coupists on Forming Transitional Government

*AB1608193895 Paris AFP in English
1900 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sao Tome, Aug 16 (AFP) — Rebel soldiers who seized power in Sao Tome and Principe in a bloodless coup held talks with the country's various political parties Wednesday [16 August] on setting up a transitional government.

The negotiations being held in private at the Defence Ministry began with a meeting between the leaders of Tuesday's coup and a delegation from the Social Democratic Party led by Prime Minister Carlos Graca.

They were later expected to meet members of the two parliamentary opposition groups, the Democratic Convergence Party (DCP) and the Independent Democratic Action (IDA).

The talks were "aimed at finding a consensus in order to establish a transitional government", one of the coup leaders Lieutenant Quintas de Almeida told journalists during a break in the negotiations.

When they took power on Tuesday, the soldiers announced they would establish a "junta of national salvation". But another coup leader, Lieutenant Fernando Lima, said the solution to Sao Tome and Principe's problems lay "not in the establishment of a junta, but by setting up a transitional government."

Likewise on Tuesday, the coup leaders said they would rule the West African island nation for 90 days to pave the way for general elections.

Second Lieutenant Fernando Sousa Ponte, a leader of the coup, told Radio TSF in Lisbon that deposed president Miguel Trovoada would be invited to take part in the political talks.

He said Trovoada, 58, was no longer the president of the former Portuguese colony, adding he was "in good health and we are in the process of installing him in a new residence where he will have all the conditions compatible with his dignity."

According to the soldiers however, Trovoada refused to take part in the talks until they recognised him as the head of state.

Trovoada had ruled the tiny archipelago 300 kilometres (185 miles) off the coast of Gabon since becoming the state's first democratically-elected president in April 1991 until his arrest Tuesday.

The coup sparked a European Commission threat to suspend development aid if Trovoada was not reinstated. The European Union's 15 member countries were due to give their position in a statement later Wednesday.

The United States expressed "deep concern" over the coup. State Department spokesman David Johnson urged the rebel soldiers to "immediately hand back power to the democratically elected government."

In Gabon President Omar Bongo called for international military action like that which led to the reinstatement of Haitian President Bertrand Aristide.

He also offered to act as a mediator between the coup leaders and political parties.

That offer was supported by France, French Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yves Doutriaux announced, adding that if "constitutional legality is not restored, there will be consequences as far as our cooperation is concerned."

Former Sao Tome and Principe president Manuel Pinto da Costa also offered to mediate, telling Radio TSF he had already been in contact with coup leaders.

Da Costa, who ruled from independence in 1975 to 1991, said: "The first contact was positive. I am waiting for them to call me back so we can fix a time to talk."

"I hope to be able to talk with all parties to restore legality. I don't accept this military coup as I would not accept anything which could put the democratic regime in danger," he added.

In Mali, the government also issued a strong statement condemning the coup and called on the military regime "to listen to the voice of reason."

Guinea-Bissau and South Africa also voiced condemnation and called for the reestablishment of the ousted government.

Ponte said the coup was staged because there were many interests hindering development of the country. He claimed army officers were in a better position than civilians to stop the deteriorating situation.

In an earlier Radio TSF interview, Trovoada's son, Yuri, said he had spoken with his father on the telephone and been told he was in good health and being treated well.

He said the family was ready to leave the island at any moment. On Wednesday Portuguese President Mario Soares said his country was ready to offer sanctuary to Trovoada if the coup leaders and the deposed president agreed.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos also offered to act as mediator and said he would be ready to offer exile to Trovoada.

Meanwhile citizens of Sao Tome, the tiny capital, cautiously ventured out Wednesday as shops and businesses slowly returned to normal. Only the airport and the banks remained shut, closely guarded by the soldiers.

Coup Leaders Accept Angola Mediation Offer

LD1608202595 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The military who were behind yesterday's coup in Sao Tome and Principe announced at a news conference this afternoon that they have accepted an offer of mediation by Angola. They have also stated that the future transitional government will be announced within the next 24 hours. This will be a government of consensus with military participation and will include personalities from all political parties. They went on to say that order and justice in the country will be restored within one year.

One of Miguel Trovoada's sons also told us that his father is still under arrest:

[Begin Trovoada Junior recording] I went with my mother to visit my father at the barracks. We left at about 1730 and were informed that he would be taken to a house in the city at the end of the afternoon, where he would be kept under military guard. This is one of the security measures they have decided to adopt. In the meantime, we have tried to telephone the barracks and have not managed so far to get through. They assured us that they would inform us to when and where he would be taken and we know nothing so far; it is nearly 1900. We know nothing about him or about where we will have to be moved to as well. [end recording]

Da Graca 'Willing' To Head New Regime

LD1608231195 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Carlos da Graca, the deposed prime minister of Sao Tome, is willing to head his country's government again. We interviewed Carlos da Graca this evening and heard him set some conditions, namely that his party should control the new government, which may have the participation of the military. Carlos da Graca said he is now waiting for the Angolan

president to get in touch, for he will be the mediator in the conflict.

[Begin recording] [da Graca] As for the Angolan mediation, it should take place soon, because Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura telephoned me from Brazil and I am waiting for a call from Sao Paulo, in Brazil, from President Eduardo dos Santos. I believe they will arrive here very soon to start mediating.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will you agree to be part of the new government? Have you thought about it?

[Da Graca] We still do not know what is going to happen, we still do not know. There is going to be a new government. In principle, it is our government because we won the general election.

[Correspondent] But do you agree to head that government?

[Da Graca] We are considering that.

[Correspondent] Would you agree to head a new government which would come out of all this?

[Da Graca] It depends what kind of government it is.

[Correspondent] What if it is a government which according to the military is to be one of national unity?

[Da Graca] Yes, we have always defended national unity. We were the first to talk about a government of national unity. We started proposing a government of national unity when we won the October election.

[Correspondent] What about a government with the military? Would you accept that?

[Da Graca] Yes, yes, providing it was a government headed by our party, we would accept that. We are looking for a solution which may satisfy everyone and will not harm the country, not only democratically but also in terms of relations with our international partners, because we depend a great deal on our international partners. If they stop aid we will die.

[Correspondent] You may already know that the United States will be cancelling all aid to Sao Tome.

[Da Graca] They have already announced it. They will have cancelled it already.

[Correspondent] That is of great concern.

[Da Graca] Of course it is, and that will force the military to think twice. [end recording]

In the interview, Carlos da Graca said that it all may go back to the beginning and that the coup may even end up being a fiasco. As for President Trovoada's situation, there has to be some thinking:

[Begin recording] [da Graca] It all may be restored, it may not be exactly as it was before, but it may be very similar to how it was before. Therefore, the rule of law, I hope, will be restored.

[Correspondent] But the military announced today that you had been deposed. Do you accept that?

[Da Graca] Yes. Of course, when there is a coup everything goes, all power goes out of the window. It may reappear at the end of the talks we are holding.

[Correspondent] Therefore you are admitting that, at the end of talks, it all may go back to what it was before but, this time, with a participation of the military.

[Da Graca] We believe that, with Angolan mediation, we may find some common understanding.

[Correspondent] What about President Trovoada? He was also elected democratically.

[Da Graca] Yes, we will also have to consider his case.

[Correspondent] Do you feel he may have to go back to the presidency?

[Da Graca] I do not know, I do not know, but the issue is being discussed. [end recording]

That was the deposed prime minister of Sao Tome and Principe talking to us a few minutes ago.

Zaire

Zaire Urges UN To Maintain Rwanda Arms Embargo

EA1008154595 Nairobi KNA in English
1525 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, 15 Aug (KNA-PANA) — Zaire has urged the United Nations Security Council to maintain its current arms embargo against Rwanda, even as it prepares to consider a proposal for ending the sanctions which were imposed in 1994.

In a letter Monday [14th August] to the president of the council, Zaire's foreign minister, [Gerard] Kamanda Wa Kamanda, said lifting the embargo would "help to ignite the great lakes region and east Africa", adding that this was "manifestly contrary to the objectives of peace and security pursued by the council".

The Zairean minister, instead, called on the council to set up an international commission of inquiry to investigate the alleged supply of arms to the former Rwandan armed forces, now scattered in refugee camps across the region. He said a close scrutiny of the draft resolution on the lifting of the embargo showed that it

was aimed at "decreeing or imposing an embargo on Zaire and other countries adjoining Rwanda".

Reacting to the letter, Rwanda's permanent representative to the UN, Manzi Bakuramutsa, said the Zaireans got the issues "completely wrong", particularly regarding the imposition of an arms embargo on Zaire or other adjoining countries. "We are not asking for an embargo on Zaire or any other country, but on the genocidal former Rwandese Government forces," the Rwandan envoy told PANA's UN correspondent.

Zaire is one of the countries criticized by human rights organizations in recent reports for the flow of arms into the refugee camps for use by the former Rwandese Government forces and militiamen, who are said to be regrouping to attack the new government in Rwanda. The government of Rwanda has following these reports launched a campaign to get the arms embargo on the country lifted, arguing that it would make it impossible for the country to defend itself against any attacks.

A draft resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo, proposed by the Nonaligned Movement Caucus at the UN, is expected to be considered soon by the council.

Corporation Accuses Relief Organization of Fraud

AB1508183095 Paris AFP in French
1546 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kinshasa, 14 Aug (AFP) —
The charity organization Oxford Committee for Famine

Relief [OXFAM] has been accused by a Zairian public corporation of fraudulently carrying commercial freight while operating humanitarian flights to Goma — in the Nord-Kivu region in eastern Zaire — where it is taking part in a food relief program meant for some 700,000 Rwandan refugees.

According to the official ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY, the public corporation Airlines Agency [RVA] in Goma has accused OXFAM of carrying 1 metric ton of freight belonging to a private individual on 5 May, and of repeating the act on 7 June. On that day, OXFAM, according to the RVA, carried commercial freight "for a big economic importer in Goma."

Since then, AZAP pointed out, the RVA has made it compulsory for all organizations to declare the nature and quantity of their freight, as well as the forwarders and consignees of humanitarian cargoes, for 72 hours in advance. Similarly, the RVA will henceforth check parcels as they are being unloaded.

Normally, humanitarian organizations operating in Goma are exempt from taxes on freight and the aircraft carrying it, as part of assistance to the refugees.

Kenya

Uganda Reportedly Sends Troops to Disputed Islands

EA1608193595 Nairobi EAST AFRICAN STANDARD in English 16 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uganda has despatched security personnel to three islands on Lake Victoria amidst reports that a Kenya legislator had visited the islands and claimed they were part of his constituency.

The government owned "NEW VISION" newspaper reported that security officers in Iganga District had been despatched to the islands of Hama, Wayasi and Lolwe in the wake of media reports that Bondo MP Oburu Oginga Odinga had visited the islands and claimed they were part of his constituency.

"NEW VISION" said the Uganda Government was investigating reports of the Kenyan legislator's visit to the islands early last week.

Iganga leader Arthur Katsigazi was quoted in the publication as having said that the three named islands were part of a Uganda district and that they did not belong to Kenya.

And Siaya District Commissioner Kiritu Wamae yesterday reiterated that there was no border dispute between Kenya and Uganda and dismissed Dr. Oburu's claims over the island as "wild and unfounded".

Mr. Wamae clarified that the islands belonged to Uganda, adding that the boundary was very clear as to which country they belonged.

Dr. Oburu was, however, reported in a section of the Kenyan press on 10 August as having toured the three Lake Victoria islands to inspect development projects and survey the boundary.

Opposition's Leakey Supports 'Peaceful Force'

EA1508162095 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 15 Aug 95 pp 1,2

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Dr. Richard Leakey, still smarting from the barbarous caning he suffered in Nakuru on Thursday [10 August], says his party would support a call for civil disobedience to force the government to accept political change.

The Safina party interim secretary general, confirming reports carried by the London THE TIMES, yesterday, endorsed "peaceful force" as the ultimate method of convincing the government to change.

THE TIMES quoted Dr. Leakey saying that although he is not keen on economic sanctions, the international community should censure the government. He listed a

boycott of schools and jobs and refusal to pay taxes as among the methods of protest he would support. *Quits* are the mass resignation of opposition MPs and non-participation in coming elections and use of electoral pacts in an opposition coalition to at least maximize the chance of removing KANU [Kenya African National Union] MPs.

"We do not want to take them to the barricades and we are against that. But we must persuade (President) Moi that people want change."

He proposed that Kenya human rights performance should be discussed in the same context as Nigeria at November's Commonwealth conference in New Zealand. [passage omitted]

Referring to the [caning] incident, he told THE TIMES: "I think they will try to kill me and do it in a way that they cannot be linked to it. If they do it, I believe it would further the process of change."

"I stand by that story. They reported me correctly... Both myself, Paul Muite and other members of Safina are opposed to any form of violence. We do not believe violence can be of any good, but we believe there are other ways in which wananchi [citizens] can finally force the government to accept change," he told the NATION.

"Such actions won't come today or tomorrow but ultimately if the government does not recognise that people want change then we will resort to those means."

Meanwhile, Police Commissioner Shadrach Kiruki said yesterday that the culprits in the Safina attack will be prosecuted once arrested. Responding to the Attorney General Amos Wako probe order, he said investigations were at an advanced stage and most of the victims had recorded statements. [passage omitted]

Mr. Kiruki said property belonging to a British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent, Ms. Louise Tunbridge, which got lost in the melee, was recovered by prison warders and would be returned to her yesterday.

KANU Chief Warns Leakey Over 'Disobedience'

EA1608142195 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi — KANU [Kenya African National Union] secretary general Joseph Kamotho has warned Dr. Richard Leakey against using a section of the British media to call for civil disobedience, saying that he and his collaborators will meet with the wrath of members of the public who sense chaos in the move.

In a statement from KANU headquarters, Kamotho said that KANU is alert and will not be intimidated by those wishing to enter State House through unconstitutional approaches, hiding under the cover of political change and democracy.

Kamotho said the call for members of parliament to resign as part of the civil disobedience campaign would work against the opposition when KANU puts up candidates in all the constituencies during the ensuing by-elections.

Police Arrest Safina Members at University

*EA1608193095 Nairobi EAST AFRICAN STANDARD
in English 16 Aug 95 p 4*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two founder members of the unregistered Safina party were arrested while walking out of University of Nairobi, a Makadara court was told yesterday.

Sergeant Mwanja, attached to Central police station, was testifying in a case in which Kabando wa Kabando and Wafula Buke have been charged with trespassing University of Nairobi grounds. They were said to have committed the offence on 1 August this year. Principal Magistrate Martin Muya is hearing the case, while the accused are being represented by a Nairobi advocate, Kathurima M'inoti. The prosecution is led by Inspector Stephen Mbugua.

Sgt. Mwanja told the court that on the material day, he and three other police officers were instructed by Inspector Kariuki to arrest two people for trespassing the university compound. He said the university security officer had reported to Inspector Kariuki that the two were seen in the vicinity without permission from the vice chancellor.

Daily Cites U.S. Embassy Safina Attack

*EA1508183695 Nairobi EAST AFRICAN STANDARD
in English 15 Aug 95 pp 1,2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government officials should stop encouraging behaviour that could lead to acts of violence, the United States Embassy advised yesterday.

"In keeping with the Kenyan Government's repeated commitments to respect the rule of law and the rights of every Kenyan, we expect the government to both protect and ensure the basic civil rights of all individuals and groups in Kenya," the embassy said.

In a statement issued in reference to last Thursday's [10 August] savage attack in Nakuru on officials of the yet to be registered Safina opposition party, and journalists, the embassy also asked all Kenyans to respect the rule of law.

The United States expressed hope that facts surrounding the incident would be brought to light soon and those responsible for the violence punished.

"We strongly support Attorney General Amos Wako's announcement of a thorough investigation of this disturbing incident," the embassy added.

"Koigi"

Last weekend U.S. Congressman Harry Johnston, while meeting President Moi, raised the issue of the attack of Safina members while on a mission to visit former Nakuru North MP Koigi [wa] Wamwere in remand prison.

The congressman also revealed that the government intended to appoint a task force to review the constitution.

During the attack Safina members, including Secretary General Dr. Richard Leakey, were whipped and pelted with stones and rotten eggs by a frenzied mob among whom eyewitnesses said they identified "known KANU [Kenya African National Union] youthwingers, activists and local officials".

Members of the Kenyan and international press who had gone to record the visit were also whipped, causing injury to most of them.

On Sunday Wako directed Commissioner of Police She-drach Kiruki to "fully" investigate the Nakuru incident and report to him on or before 25th August, 1995.

In yesterday's statement, the embassy supported. [sentence as published]

Congressman Johnston said he had raised the Safina attack with the president who, he said, had assured him it would be investigated.

Meanwhile, KANU has asked opposition politicians to assist police investigation of the incident instead of condemning the ruling party.

Secretary General Joseph Kamotho said the party did not meet to plan the attack on Safina members.

He accused the opposition of taking the role of prosecutor and judge in the incident.

But on Saturday, Mombasa KANU branch chairman Shariff Nassir gloated that the whipping meted out to the Safina team was only a foretaste of what they should expect.

Kamotho also hit out at opposition leaders criticizing Congressman Johnston. He claimed they expected him to lambast KANU.

Somalia

Aidid Offers To Pay for Surrendered Weapons

EA1608175095 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mohamed Farah Aidid, the president of the Republic of Somalia, has today issued Decree No. 2. Once the president had seen Article (?18.23/54.1) of the interim charter, considered the proposal by the minister of internal affairs and the approval by the national leadership council and cabinet, he issued a decree:

Article 1. With effect from 15 August all heavy and light weapons and explosives which are in the hands of communities, fighters, companies, agencies, and Somali people in general are to be surrendered to the government of the Republic of Somalia, so that they become national property.

Article 2. The government will pay a reasonable sum of money, within six months, for any weapons collected in line with Article 1. [passage omitted]

Tanzania

President, OAU Delegation Meet on Burundi Crisis

EA1708105495 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1700 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has called for an urgent African solution to avert a devastating social crisis in Burundi. President Mwinyi made the call during talks with an OAU delegation which called on him at State House, Dar es Salaam, today [16 August].

He told the delegation, led by a special emissary of the incumbent OAU chairman, Mr. Negash Kebret, that

Tanzania is ready to participate in all OAU initiatives aimed at ensuring security in Burundi. President Mwinyi also commended the appropriate measures that are being undertaken by the OAU in seeking a permanent solution on the Burundi crisis. He said, however, that as such efforts are being delayed a more explosive situation is looming over Burundi.

President Mwinyi agreed with the special envoy of the OAU chairman that the Burundi crisis was a challenge to Africa in assessing its capability to deal with its problems. He therefore called for a suitable African solution to the crisis, whatever the cost and without fail.

President Mwinyi and the OAU delegation jointly stressed the significance of un participation in the search for a permanent solution to the Burundi problem.

Minister Appeals to International Community

EA1708110495 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in English 0400 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, the Honorable Joseph Rwegasira, has appealed to the international community to pressure Burundi and Rwanda to create a conducive environment for refugees to return home. He said if the situation on the ground remains as it is now both countries could find [themselves] in a situation similar to that of Somalia after the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces.

The Honorable Rwegasira, who was opening a three-day international workshop in Arusha yesterday [16 August] on the refugee crisis in the great lakes area, said that this would put the central African subregion in a more difficult situation. He stressed that a solution to the problem of refugees lies in the countries of origin and not otherwise, and that the refugees were a burden to host countries.

Velayati on 'Fruitful' Ties Despite U.S. Pressure

*LD1608175995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, on the second day of his visit to South Africa Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the results of his talks with that country's officials as fruitful. I draw your attention to an interview that one of our colleagues has conducted with Mr. Velayati.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Velayati, will you tell our listeners about your talks with the South African officials as well as your assessment of those talks?

[Velayati] I must tell you that fortunately our work with the South Africans has made great progress in all its aspects and our talks have resulted in the signing of an agreement for setting up a joint committee by the two countries. Such a joint commission is in reality a framework that depicts the future of the relations between the two countries. Five sub-committees have been envisaged within the commission. These committees will be set up by Esfand of this year [last month of Iranian year beginning 21 March 1995] and everything will be ready for the first meeting of the joint commission in Tehran before the end of the current year. The foreign ministers of the two countries will be participating in that meeting. Bearing in mind the extensive resources of the two countries of Iran and South Africa, we believe that we will be able to increase our relations.

The speed of the progress of our relations signifies the existence of extensive and multifarious resources. Fortunately we reached positive results quite quickly. Not only are we going to have close and all-round cooperation in our bilateral relations, but we will also be extending our regional cooperation.

Iran will act as a link between South Africa and the new republics from the former Soviet Union, and South Africa as a connection point between Iran and the whole of the African continent — especially the black Africa — and southern Africa. Another issue that we have agreed on is international cooperation.

On the whole we predict the future of relations between the two countries to be very bright.

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, we have heard in the news that America has repeatedly expressed its objection to the expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa. What is your assessment of the pressures that America has exerted on South Africa in this regard?

[Velayati] What we have understood from the South African authorities and their statements is that the country moves according to its national interests and arranges its relations with Iran on that basis and will do so in the future. Therefore South Africa stood up to U.S. pressures and despite the many threats and warnings by the United States to the effect that South Africa should refrain from expanding its ties with Iran, as I said, an extensive memorandum of understanding was signed between us yesterday, which indicates South Africa's resolution to advance its relations with Iran toward the national interests of the two countries. I must say that some high-ranking South African authorities explicitly rejected U.S. pressures and unwarranted expectations in front of journalists and said that we are an independent nation and move according to our own interests. [end recording]

We thank Foreign Minister Velayati very much for taking part in the interview.

Botha Details Advantages to Iranian Oil Deal

*MB1608172895 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1647 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Assembly Aug 16 SAPA — No taxpayers money is involved in the proposed Iran-Central Energy Fund oil deal, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said on Wednesday [16 August].

The oil deal was to the taxpayer's advantage in that it would enable South Africa's strategic oil stocks to be reduced, he said in a written reply to a question from Marcell Golding (ANC). "This will in turn release funds to the national treasury".

The Strategic Fuel Fund [SFF] would use its own working capital built up from past profits for any disbursements it needed. The SFF believed South Africa stood to profit by R50 million [rands] a year.

"The profit figure is an estimate based on SFF's experience in crude oil trading over the last six years and the profits made on this trading," Botha said.

It was assumed that normal wharfage costs would be paid and SFF was negotiating with Portnet [national port network] to have these reduced.

Saldanha's wharfage costs were substantially higher than those at other South African harbours, and higher than most bulk-handling harbours in the world.

An environmental study was also in progress to establish whether oil pollution measures were sufficient, and whether additional investment in anti-pollution measures should be made. An anti-pollution vessel, Plus

Ultra, had already been purchased and refitted in Cape Town by the SFF, which had invested R21 million in pollution control equipment.

Mandela Will Not Engage in 'Infighting'

*MB1708144095 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1430 GMT 17 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town August 17 SAPA — South Africa would not engage in infighting between the United States and other countries, President Nelson Mandela said on Thursday [17 August] after meeting Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking at his official Cape Town residence, Genaden-daal, after the Iranian minister paid a 20-minute courtesy call, Mandela said he had not received a formal protest from the US Government about South Africa's upgrading of relations with the Gulf country.

The US Ambassador Princeton Lyman is to meet SA [South Africa] Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo to discuss South Africa's increasing diplomatic ties with Iran and Cuba — two countries the US is conducting economic actions against.

The US is pressuring allies to impose sanctions against Iran, which the Americans accuse of seeking weapons of mass destruction and sponsoring international terrorism.

Velayati on a three day visit to South Africa on Tuesday signed an agreement with Nzo paving the way for joint ventures and trade and technological cooperation between the two countries. An agreement to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil at Saldanha in the Western Cape which will boost South Africa's economy by R50 million [rands] a year is expected to be clinched soon.

No country should interfere in the domestic relations of another. South Africa had very good relations with the US and "we want to keep those relations", he said. He hoped that differences would not lead to cancellation of any links with the US. "I'm sure the United States of America needs South Africa as much as we need the United States of America....Our own contribution will be to improve relations of all kinds."

On increased ties with the oil-rich Gulf state, he said South Africa attached "a great deal of importance to our relations with the Republic of Iran". "It is in the interests of both our countries and the people of both countries for these relations to be developed and expanded. We have taken every precaution...every measure, to ensure that this relation is turned into practical advantages for both countries."

Velayati confirmed that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would visit South Africa early next

year, probably after a South African delegation visited Tehran for a joint commission.

The president said he had taken time off from his "very busy schedule" to meet Velayati whom he had met before in Iran, while on a fund-raising expedition for the ANC after its unbanning.

"They responded very well when we explained our situation. We respect countries that helped us when we were all alone and we don't want to forget them now that we have succeeded...."

He also remarked that US President Bill Clinton had been the first head of state to welcome him when he was released from prison and had invited him to the United States where he had been treated with "a great deal of regard" as the ANC's president.

Minister: No Evidence of Arms Sales to Rwanda

*MB1608182495 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1738 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Assembly Aug 16 SAPA — Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] could find no evidence to substantiate allegations it and South African Government officials had illegally supplied arms to the former Rwandan Defence Force, Defence Minister Joe Modise said on Wednesday.

The New-York based Human Rights Watch — who made the allegations — had been unwilling to discuss the issue with Armscor, he said in written reply to Johan Marais (NP) [National Party]. A report from an independent lawyer appointed by the minister to investigate the allegations was still outstanding.

NP Wants Castro Invitation 'Reconsidered'

*MB1608204095 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad says Cuban President Fidel Castro has postponed his planned visit to South Africa because of a heavy workload. President Castro was to have arrived in the country at the end of this month. Pahad said in Parliament today that the government hopes President Castro will be able to visit South Africa at a later date. Denis Cruywagen reports:

[Begin recording] [Cruywagen] President Mandela's invitation to President Castro to visit South Africa was not welcomed by the United States. According to Pahad, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives expressed his country's displeasure over the invitation and South Africa's intention to open an embassy in Cuba.

During a lively debate in Parliament today, the National Party [NP] said that it is not in South Africa's interest to embrace one of communism's diehards.

[National Party MP Boy Geldenhuys, in English] What I am saying, however, is that the invitation to President Castro to visit South Africa should be seriously reconsidered. If the government found it fit to postpone the invitation to President Walesa of Poland indefinitely, incidentally a staunch anticommunist, then surely the invitation to President Castro can follow suit.

[Cruywagen] Mr. Pahad said that South Africa's policy is to establish diplomatic ties with countries and not with governments.

[Pahad, in English] South Africa fully supports the ideals of liberty, justice, and democracy for all people throughout the world, and the South African Government believes that dialogue and active interaction, rather than isolation, would serve our aim of promoting these values.

[Cruywagen] It was clear today that the National Party has still not given up its campaign against communism and President Castro. President Castro's decision not to come to South Africa at this stage has somewhat eased the situation in Parliament, but tempers will flare again if he does come. [end recording]

Earthlife Protests Toxic Waste Shipment From U.S.
MB1608195595 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1949 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Aug 17 SAPA — The South African Government had approved the import of 500 [metric] tons of toxic waste originating from the United States and exported by Finland, Earthlife Africa claimed on Thursday [10 August].

In a statement in Johannesburg it quoted Finnish exporter Kikkola Chemicals as saying this was the first of several shipments totalling 3,000 tons for recycling by a Benoni, East Rand, company.

The waste, which was due in Durban Harbour on August 23, was delayed when it broke open and leaked en-route in Hamburg, Germany, Earthlife said.

It added the import of "poisonous cupric arsenide" waste had been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. "This was despite repeated assurances by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers that toxic waste imports into South Africa would never be allowed."

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Director-General Dr Colin Cameron said the material was indeed toxic but it would not be dumped and

could therefore not be considered waste. "The material is going to be used in manufacturing processes," he said.

The department's dangerous-substances deputy director, Willem Scott, confirmed this and said all the imported material would be recycled by the Benoni Jad Metal Concentrate Recycling Company.

"I am not sure at the moment exactly what products are going to be recovered from the waste, but it will be done in an environmentally friendly way. As far as my knowledge stretches, it will not be dumped anywhere in the country."

He could, however, not confirm that the waste had leaked on its way to South Africa.

Scott said the department had taken several steps to ensure that the waste would not be used in any way harmful to the environment. The department had to convince Finland that nothing would be done contrary to the Basel Convention, which directed that all imports and exports of toxic material had to be carefully monitored.

Scott, who heads the Basel Committee, added the country had to present a report of its activities in this regard to the Basel Convention's secretariat each year.

Earthlife said KwaZulu/Natal Environment Committee Chairwoman Ina Cronje was planning to object to the waste coming through Durban. She also intended seeking urgent legal advice on the matter.

Earthlife Africa was exploring legal means to stop the shipment. It said the South African Government could not "ensure that workers and the environment can be protected to the same standards required in the U.S. and other rich countries which seek to send us their toxic waste".

Government Comments on Protest

MB1708074795 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network
in English 0500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Earthlife Africa claims the South African Government has approved the import of 500 tonnes of what it describes as toxic waste originating from the United States and exported by Finland. [passage omitted]

Responding to the claim, Department of Environmental Affairs Director General Colin Cameron said the material was indeed toxic, but that it was to be used in a manufacturing process and could therefore not be described as waste.

Government Considers Free Trade Agreement With EU

MB1708093495 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 0430 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] South Africa is considering signing a free trade agreement with the EU. According to Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel, negotiations between the government and the EU on the matter have been taking place since June.

Manuel said South Africa still is studying the benefits of the agreement, and would first need to be fully informed of such an agreement's effects on the economies of South and southern Africa before making a decision.

Country To Join African Development Bank

MB1608154195 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1446 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town August 24 SAPA — South Africa will join the African Development Bank, cabinet decided on Wednesday [16 August].

It had approved a membership option which allowed South Africa to take up one percent of the bank's share capital with options to extend the country's holdings if a number of conditions were met, Cabinet Secretary Jakes Gerwel said.

Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg had been appointed governor and his deputy Alec Erwin the alternative governor.

Fifty-two African states and 24 non-African countries are already members of the institution. Advantages in joining included having influence at the bank and being able to borrow money at competitive lending rates, Finance Department officials told a parliamentary finance committee on Tuesday.

MP Tony Yengeni on Armscor Head's Resignation

MB1608092195 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0510 GMT 16 Aug 95

[From the "AM Live" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer Sally Burdett] Armscor's [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] top gun has resigned. Managing director Tielman de Waal announced his resignation yesterday. The move follows hot on the heels of a damning Cameron Commission report into the activities of South Africa's arms procurement agency. For his reaction, we are joined on the line now by Tony Yengeni of Parliament's Standing Committee on Defense. Good morning Mr. Yengeni, these resignations of top people in Armscor, is that really enough?

[Yengeni] Good morning. My own view is that the resignation of Mr. de Waal, whilst it is welcomed, it is simply not good enough precisely because we have been calling upon the complete resignation or dismantling of Armscor so that a new body is put in place, which is going to the government with new principles and new policies.

[Burdett] So you're saying this is not enough. What sort of Armscor do you have in mind? You're talking about a scaling down, but exactly what vision do you have for a future Armscor?

[Yengeni] I think that a future Armscor or a body of that kind should have limited powers, should play the role of a procurement agency rather than doing everything including export of arms, the giving out of licenses, and all sorts of things. I think that it should rather play the role of being technical adviser to the executive, and the executive be the one that takes the decisions, and not the adviser, technically, and then also taking very important decisions.

[Burdett] Do you think it's fair to expect top management to resign if they've been implicated in illegal arms deals and not to implicate the government's sources who okayed those deals?

[Yengeni] I think at this point in time it's going to be very difficult to implicate the government. They said earlier precisely because Armscor has been a power unto itself, it has been operating fairly independently, and it has on this question of the arms debacle, you know, done things in an illegal manner, and I don't think that the present government can be implicated in that respect.

[Burdett] So are you fairly confident that a lot of these deals went ahead entirely without government knowledge?

[Yengeni] In fact, the Cameron Commission was initiated by the defense minister himself because immediately after the report of the arms debacle, he pointed out publicly that he was not informed, he didn't know about this arms transaction. And then he called upon a commission of inquiry.

[Burdett] What are we going to see happening in the near future? Are we going to see more resignations of top managers within Armscor?

[Yengeni] I don't know precisely what is going to happen in the future, but certainly myself and my colleagues in Parliament will be insisting that the whole board of directors and management should be put aside and a completely new restructured Armscor should be put in place, an Armscor that is going to operate in a

manner consistent with our interim Constitution and our legislation.

[Burdett] Thank you very much. Tony Yengeni is the chairman of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense.

CP Calls For Resignation of all Management

MB1608103995 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0955 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Aug 16 SAPA — An African National Congress call for the resignation of Armscor's [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] management team showed the party favoured its own political interests above those of South Africa, the Conservative Party [CP] said on Wednesday.

"Like in every other field, the ANC wants to ensure the population composition (of South Africa) is mirrored in Armscor's management by means of affirmative action," a CP statement in Pretoria read. The CP felt these demands could result in Armscor not being competitive on the world market.

Public in 'Favor' of Maintaining Arms Industry

MB1508185095 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1842 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Aug 15 SAPA — The public was in favour of South Africa maintaining and even expanding its arms industry, the Human Sciences Research Council and the Institute for Defence Policy said in a joint statement on Tuesday [15 August].

They said a survey revealed particularly strong support from whites for maintaining the country's weapons industry, but support had also been evident among blacks and coloureds and to a lesser extent among Asians.

The joint survey, conducted in June, showed that 70 per cent of the respondents thought South Africa should be self-reliant in respect of arms and able to compete on the international market. More than 40 per cent were in favour of South Africa increasing its weapons production.

The statement said politicians and the government should take note of several important factors relating to the industry when determining policy: job creation, existing investment in the arms industry and its role in the wider manufacturing industry, and the foreign policy leverage and strategic independence South Africa gained by maintaining its weapons-producing capacity.

It said a huge 45 per cent decline in local defence spending over the past four years and the simultaneous

60 per cent drop in the arms industry's turnover had caused the loss of tens of thousands of jobs in both the public and private sectors.

Production of defence equipment had dropped by more than a fifth over the past three years, from R4.826 billion [rands] to R3.773 billion.

Even with these cuts, South Africa had a formidable but rapidly declining arms industry consisting of about 700 companies representing four per cent of all manufacturing output and 1.1 per cent of gross domestic product.

Employment by the arms sector was down to about 50,000 people from 160,000 four years ago.

In 1994, with exports valued at more than R1 billion, the arms industry was second only to the industrial machinery sector in terms of manufactured exports.

Government Might Reconsider Buying Navy Vessels

MB1708093295 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 0500 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Africa may still consider buying four new naval corvettes at the end of this financial year. This follows the scrapping of a plan to buy four warships after it ran into opposition in Parliament.

Deputy Defense Minister Ronnie Kasrils says the money for the boats has not yet been spent, and he expects the subject to come under discussions again.

Meanwhile, European shipyards are still maintaining contacts with the Navy in the hope that the corvettes could still be ordered.

De Klerk Denies Rumors of NP Leadership Split

MB1508174295 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1651 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Aug 15 SAPA — National Party [NP] provincial leaders were unanimous on party objectives and policy, NP leader Deputy President FW de Klerk said after a three- and-a-half hour meeting of its highest decision-making body on Tuesday.

The meeting of the Federal Executive — the second in less than three weeks — fuelled speculation that the party was facing a crisis.

De Klerk said in a statement that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the "present internal and public debate with regard to the role of the National Party in the new dispensation and related issues".

"Following an in-depth discussion, there was unanimity regarding basic points of departure, objectives and policy positions with respect to all the issues raised. The conclusion to which the executive committee came, will now form the basis for further discussions in the caucus," he said.

A full statement would be made "as soon as those are completed".

The meeting, attended by all the NP provincial leaders, is one of several to be held within the next two weeks, following rumours and reports on internal dissension before the November local government elections.

NP MPs will attend an important caucus meeting on Thursday — one which political commentators have speculated may end with the party splitting similarly to the 1982 break-up that led to the formation of the Conservative Party. However, on Monday de Klerk again denied his party was facing a split.

"Generally speaking" there was no problem about policy in the NP or about "where we want to go or about what we believe".

The 1982 split was a result of a fundamental philosophical problem within the party and "that does not exist at the moment".

ANC's Yengeni Advocates De Klerk Arrest

*MB1508142495 Johannesburg CITY PRESS
in English 13 Aug 95 p 17*

[Interview with Tony Yengeni, ANC MP and chairman of the Joint Committee on Defense, by Rafiq Rohan; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Why are you demanding the arrest of F W de Klerk?**

It is fine that we've legislated the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to ensure that those who committed atrocities in the past will have to account for what they did and be forgiven. But the point I am raising is against people who are implicated in very serious crimes against our people. Are we going to wait for the Truth Commission — when there is evidence against people involved in violence against our people?

Paul Erasmus has come out very clearly saying de Klerk and his former Cabinet in fact decided on this plan to subvert the ANC and destabilise our communities and they used various methods to do that. He's got documents to prove that those decisions were taken by that Cabinet together with de Klerk.

I'm saying, why are the police not investigating and taking steps to ensure that these crimes are addressed?

Anybody who breaks the law gets investigated and arrested. For this reason I think de Klerk should be arrested — or, if not arrested, police should investigate whether there's any substance to the allegations. **Is it only de Klerk you want arrested?**

No. Anybody who has broken the law must be arrested. We get charged every day. I'm facing defamation charges because someone feels I've broken the law. We think people involved in violence in Natal or Gauteng should be arrested whether they are ANC, IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party], NP [National Party], as long as they have broken the law they should be arrested. **But you have specifically made the call for the arrest of de Klerk?**

That is because de Klerk was the face and voice and the leader of the previous government. He denied his involvement all along. Mandela was saying that there was a third force in operation. We suspected the former government was involved because there's no way that systematic violence could have continued without a strong hand backing it. He still denies it. He accepted it partly, saying that he did have Stratcom operations, but that he never gave any instructions for murder. He said he did not know the details but was involved in the broader planning. What makes it worse is that Mandela was released and the ANC and other organisations were unbanned and, instead of laying the ground for peaceful resolution of the conflict and levelling the playing fields, they started a campaign of slaughtering our people. There were so many massacres from 1990 to 1994 in this country. **Does your position have support within the ANC?**

Last week Cheryl Carolus made a statement to the effect that de Klerk must confess now and not wait for the Truth Commission. So in the ANC there are beginnings of a concern that these revelations cannot be left unnoticed. We need to respond. **Are you not concerned about the negative impact your call could have on the Government of National Unity?**

I think the Government of National Unity is in place to ensure that there's unity and reconciliation. I feel — and this is the general feeling in the ANC — that if the truth comes out, that does not necessarily mean the spirit of reconciliation is done away with. We feel that the truth will go a long way to healing the wounds. We are saying that de Klerk must come out with the truth. The truth must not trickle out in drips and drabs. That creates confusion and anger. He must spill the beans — and not only compromise smaller figures down the line of command. The security forces are concerned. They are saying: "We received orders and you politicians are concentrating on us only. Yes we did do these things

— but we were ordered to do them. Why are you also not calling for the arrest of our superiors who gave the instructions? They are asking us why we are sitting with those chaps in parliament and not taking them to task.

Do you not believe that the Truth Commission can fully address the atrocities of apartheid?

The Truth Commission will go a long way in reconciling the country and certain criminals will account for their crimes but there is the danger that the Commission will not delve deep enough to expose what happened in the past. I suspect witnesses who are going to make inputs to the Commission are going to doctor their inputs. I understand de Klerk and his former cabinet are seriously preparing and counselling themselves. I suspect part of the consultation means keeping certain things out and putting certain things in. In that regard the Truth Commission may well not come out with the full truth. But we hope for the best. **Considering that opponents of apartheid were arrested tried and sentenced do you think the Truth Commission is a fair mechanism in its current form? Won't it bring all the perpetrators to book?**

My initial stance was for Nuremberg-type trials because I felt racists and criminals should be tried. But after much discussion we settled for a Truth Commission instead. De Klerk refuses to confess — and I am saying if he refuses to confess then he must be tried. Pardon only comes through confession. **You have been very vocal on the issue of national symbols and the apartheid past.**

I cannot understand how it is possible that we have institutions in this country that still reflect the old symbols. Here in parliament itself we are dominated by the old establishment. We're not only here to create houses and jobs. We are also trying to decolonise this country and place it on a democratic platform. That platform should be reflected wherever we are. I'm not arguing to put Mandela's face in all the rooms and offices in this building or to change all the street names to Nelson Mandela or Oliver Tambo. I'm merely saying we should remove the symbols of the past and put them in museums so that generations to come will know there was something called apartheid that people were killed and discriminated against because they were black. They should be replaced by symbols that unite the new South Africa. **How do you propose we preserve the memory of apartheid?**

Museums are not enough. Those that suffered and were killed should be honoured through tombstones and memorials. The government should be more assertive here. One fundamental issue that has not been addressed is the issue of economic empowerment. The English

when they were in power accumulated economic wealth. The Afrikaners did the same. Now you have an ANC government in power with an RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program] programme in place but silent on the question of the redistribution of wealth.

We are not really going to the whites and telling them to give 40 or 50 percent if they want stability. Without that you can't have democracy in this country. Whites are entrenching themselves even more. They don't want to lose one bit. They put black managers in place but to share a big slice of their capital with us is not part of their programme. The government is privatising very important state assets — and who's buying those assets? White people. We've partly solved the political debate but economic empowerment and redistribution is the debate that must begin to dominate.

IFP, ANC React to Hit Squad Allegations

MB1608085495 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 0510 GMT 16 Aug 95

[From the "AM Live" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer Sally Burdett] The ANC is demanding a special police investigation into the death of its Durban North regional organizer and former MK [Umkhonto we Sizwe — Spear of the Nation; ANC military wing] commander Joseph Nduli. His bullet-riddled body was found dumped at the Phoenix mortuary near KwaMashu in KwaZulu/Natal.

Mr. Nduli's death comes after numerous allegations by the ANC in the province that the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] is organizing hit squads to eliminate ANC leaders. On the line now we have the ANC's spokesman in Natal, Dumisani Makhaye. We also have the Inkatha Freedom Party's Ed Tillet. I'm going to start with you, Mr. Makhaye of the ANC. This latest finding, this latest assassination as you were calling it, does it back up your claims of an IFP hit squad operating in KwaZulu/Natal?

[Makhaye] While one would not want to prejudge the investigation that must ensue immediately, one would say the ANC have received this information of a campaign to assassinate the top leaders of ANC in KwaZulu/Natal, and having its two members almost assassinated, one is Roy Ainslie, whose car was riddled with bullets. Fortunately he survived, and one was Bheki Cele, chairman of the Safety and Security Committee in KwaZulu/Natal and member of Parliament, and member of the provincial Executive Committee and working committee of the ANC. He survived precisely because we had received information that on that particular...

[Burdett, interrupting] So Mr. Makhaye, in brief, I would like to cross to Ed Tillet of the IFP. Does it back up claims in your view?

[Tillet] No, it doesn't, Sally. In fact Dumisani Makhaye is raising the most tenuous of links to suggest IFP involvement in what he terms assassinations, or attempted assassinations. It really socks me to the pits of my stomach that we have lost nearly 400 IFP office bearers and leaders since 1985 in political violence. When did the ANC ever shed any tears for those leaders?

[Burdett] Do you think the ANC is responsible for those killings?

[Tillet] Yes, we know. We know it to be so.

[Burdett] Mr. Makhaye, can you respond to that?

[Makhaye] In fact the ANC will be the first organization to fully support the investigation into the killing of IFP leaders because we know that the majority of those IFP leaders were killed precisely because they had shown an interest in achieving peace here in KwaZulu/Natal. We would want to know who killed Mr. Ndebele of 17 Section hostel at Umlazi? We would want to know who killed Dlodlo at Empangeni, and many other IFP leaders that were deeply involved...

[Burdett, interrupting] So the ANC would cooperate in an investigation into the ANC revolving around these murders on both sides?

[Makhaye] Obviously, we are quite interested because those IFP leaders that are killed are those that are interested in peace.

[Burdett] And Mr. Tillet, would the IFP cooperate in an investigation?

[Tillet] Of course, Sally, I would like to draw your attention to a decision that was taken by the Safety and Security Portfolio Committee within the KwaZulu/Natal Parliament as early as March this year; a decision that was initiated by the IFP calling for the formation of a special task unit to urgently investigate the ongoing murder of leaders and members of communities in KwaZulu/Natal. We don't have any faith and confidence in the present ITU, the Investigation Task Unit that is headed by a Colonel Frank Dutton. We regard it as an illegitimate structure; we regard it as containing certain individuals that could be interpreted as being ANC activists.

[Burdett] So you would call for a new body to investigate these killings?

[Tillet] A totally new body, a depoliticized body, a body that has a redefined mandate that has expanded terms of reference.

[Burdett] Mr. Tillet, would you say there's a possibility that there's a rogue group within the IFP that's carrying out assassination attempts against ANC members in KwaZulu/Natal?

[Tillet] No, I don't believe so. In fact, I would like to refer to the assassination that the ANC, the most latest assassination that the ANC has attributed to the IFP without any shred of evidence, I might add. I would like to point out that their leader, his body was in fact found near KwaMashu. Now KwaMashu is a known ANC stronghold. It is also an area that is plagued by criminal violence. It is also an area that is plagued by intra-ANC rivalry. In fact, in the local media in Durban, there has been reported cases of at least five innocent people that have been killed in KwaMashu lately by rogue bandits belonging to the former MK. So I would like to ask Dumisani Makhaye what evidence he has to prove that the IFP is linked to this assassination.

[Burdett] Mr. Makhaye, do you have evidence?

[Makhaye] We do have evidence about Roy and other people that the IFP is trying, together with the right-wing elements within the security...

[Burdett] So you say you do have evidence. Just very briefly, I just have to wrap up here. Mr. Makhaye, Ed Tillet of the IFP is calling for the disbandment of the current Investigation Task Unit into political violence in the province. Would you agree with that and agree to a setting up of an entirely new structure to investigate...

[Makhaye, interrupting] Only a person that is not interested in achieving peace here in KwaZulu/Natal simply because it is Africans that are being killed will say so. The ITU has done a lot of work in arresting some of the alleged leaders...

[Burdett, interrupting] So you wouldn't agree with the disbandment of the ITU?

[Makhaye] We will never agree to that. Instead it must be strengthened.

[Burdett] Thank you very much.

Gauteng Government To Move To Johannesburg

MB1608154495 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Gauteng Government has given the go-ahead for moving its administrative headquarters from Pretoria to Johannesburg. A government spokesperson said the cabinet had given approval for the tender board to seek office accommodation in several buildings in the city. The move will affect about 3,000 public servants. A special train will be used to

transport the workers while they seek homes in Johannesburg. The transport costs will amount to about 1.6 million rands a year.

R24-Million Dam To Be Built in Eastern Transvaal

*MB1608184795 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1816 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Komatipoort Aug 16 SAPA — The Nkomazi Irrigation Scheme had allocated R24 million [rands] for the construction of a dam at Masi-bekela near Komatipoort, Eastern Transvaal, development consultant Stephen Woodburne said this week. He said construction would begin next month and take six months, AFRICAN EYE NEWS SERVICE reported.

Although the dam would be built with the full approval of the province's Department of Water and Forestry Affairs, it would be financed by the Nkomazi Irrigation Scheme. Water for the dam would be pumped from the Komati river.

At least 600 local residents would be employed temporarily for construction work, and the development would facilitate the initiation of other planned reconstruction and development projects.

Over Half Public Service Managers Said Nonwhite

*MB1508132795 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
14 Aug 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] Over half the management posts in South Africa's new public service are already held by black, colored, and Indian people, but women, the other group on which the state's affirmative action program focuses, are not nearly as well represented.

A survey of the race and gender composition of the new public service's management structure has shown that 338 of the 596 posts (about 57 percent) are held by blacks, coloreds, and Indians. Only 93 women (about 16 percent) have been appointed.

The results of the survey, which included all appointments from director to director general made from the date when the government of national unity came to power until 30 June this year, were provided to BEELD by the Public Service Commission. They include the South African National Defense Force, South African Police Service, and Department of Correctional Services.

The survey only covers posts in the newly created structures, and not those in the previous South African public service. The process of appointing people from the old structures into the new is still under way.

Blacks, coloreds, and Indians form the majority at all levels in the posts included in the survey. Of the 34 directors general, not one was a woman. However, Dr. Olive Shisana has in the period since the survey been appointed Director General of Health.

Dr. Zola Skweyiya, Minister of the Public Service and Administration, says in an interview in the latest issue of PUBLICO, the magazine published by the Public Service Commission, that he would like to see the public service reflect the composition of the country's population within 2 years.

Angola

Delegation To Mediate Sao Tomean Crisis

MB1708124795 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Aug 95

["Communique" issued by the Angolan Government; place and date not given — read by the Foreign Ministry's Press Office chief, Anercio Cadete]

[FBIS Translated Text] All sides involved in the crisis in the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe have accepted Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' mediation for a negotiated solution to the dispute. In view of this, an Angolan goodwill delegation will arrive in the Sao Tomean capital within the next 24 hours. The delegation is led by His Excellency Venancio de Moura, Angola's minister of foreign affairs, and includes other Angolan Government and presidential officials.

The Angolan Government appeals to the parties involved to be calm and serene so as to facilitate President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' mediating role for the sake of peace, democracy, and stability in Sao Tome and Principe.

UNITA Reports FAA's 'Nationwide War Plan'

MB1708075795 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources with the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] military forces General Staff have reported an Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] nationwide war plan scheduled to begin in the second half of August. The FAA Command in Bie Province already has launched a number of military operations for which they blame UNITA as a way of misleading Angolan and international public opinion. The FAA plan for Bie Province includes expelling UNITA from government-controlled areas. FAA soldiers have been promised rewards if they fulfill the war plan. The sources with the UNITA military forces General Staff say government officials in Bie Province have been evacuating their families to Luanda, leaving the residents in a state of shock.

Meanwhile, the military situation in Huambo Province's southern region is confusing with the FAA conducting in-depth patrols in UNITA-administered areas. FAA units of up to seven to eight commandos armed to the teeth have left (Lussefene) to cause unrest in Sumi, Gove, and Cuima. Our correspondent cites the UNITA Military Command in the region as saying that such activities endanger the Lusaka Protocol. The UN Angola Verification Mission-3 has been urged to effectively monitor the situation.

UNITA military sources already have denied FAA General Marques Correia's 16 August statements that UNITA was allegedly launching attacks in Lunda Norte Province. Our sources said UNITA military forces should not lose patience, but for the sake of peace and Angolans they should continue to abide by the cease-fire despite the countless FAA military actions against UNITA positions. The sources added that FAA forces have launched large-scale operations against UNITA-controlled areas of Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul Provinces and other areas, using the eviction of illegal miners as an excuse. The sources said UNITA military forces are ready to make peace with government soldiers, but if FAA commanders wish to resume the war because of diamond mines they own in Lunda, then UNITA forces will respond tit for tat in the name of peace, Angolans, and the true Angola's friends.

UNITA Wants Blue Helmets Deployed to Lunda Norte

MB1608165695 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] would like to see an urgent deployment of Blue Helmets in Lunda Norte Province. The situation at Calonda, in Lunda Norte, is worrisome. Government troops, using BMP-2 armored cars, are patrolling the right bank of the Chicapa River in order to control the bridge the river, which is inside UNITA's defense lines.

Our correspondent in the region said the situation has worsened since yesterday, with the arrival of Brigadier Lacrau at Calonda. Brig. Lacrau's objective is to overrun Ndovua Commune and other UNITA-controlled positions along the left bank of the Chicapa River.

Brig. Lacrau is counting on the assistance of three platoons of South African mercenaries. UNITA, through its northeastern military command, today urged the Pretoria government to withdraw the dogs of war, at term for mercenaries, from Angolan soil.

According to the Lusaka Protocol, all mercenaries must withdraw from Angola, and countries that do not cooperate [words indistinct] accused of destabilizing the newly established democratic processes in Africa.

Eastern Commander on UNITA's Intentions

MB1708072895 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Marques Correia, deputy commander of the Eastern Military Front, said today the situation in Lunda Norte Province is worrisome. He said his troops are fed up with provocations.

After taking (?Camblo), UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] military forces now are heading to other positions.

[Begin Correia recording] It is with great concern that we have been monitoring developments on the Eastern Military Front. In the Dundo military region, the situation is getting worse because UNITA has launched, not large-scale operations, but permanent actions aimed at seizing new areas in the past few days. We are indeed worried about this.

Although the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] are committed to the peace accord, you will understand that one's patience has limits. You have been informed of recent UNITA operations, particularly the one that resulted in the occupation of Cambulo. This is worrisome because UNITA wants to gain more ground. We cannot permit the situation to continue. The FAA's mission is to uphold territorial integrity. I cannot see how someone can say that the present situation is being dramatized because it is a war about (?mines). That is not true. UNITA has been carrying out concrete actions. This is self-evident and if you want proof we could take a number of journalists to areas where UNITA is engaged in operations. That is the present situation. [end recording]

Gen. Marques Correia was in Canfunfo mining town on 16 August. Canfunfo military commander Brigadier Pepe de Castro says the situation in Canfunfo is static. He said there have been no clashes, but people can only move about freely within the town. It is not possible to move 15 km beyond the town's boundaries.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] What is your position right now?

[Castro] We are fulfilling our mission and have reported to our seniors about what is taking place. We are waiting for any instructions if there are complications. [end recording]

Cabinda Separatists Want Protectorate Status

MB1608141395 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cabinda's independence campaigners say the territory should be returned to Portugal as a protectorate. N'zita Tiago, leader of the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, says he intends to meet all of the territory's parties and political associations to designate people who will negotiate the Angolan Government's military and political withdrawal. Tiago said Cabindans then will negotiate with Portugal for either a transitional period or total independence.

Lesotho

Foreign Minister Meets RSA Envoy on Border Issues

MB1608062495 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 0500 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lesotho's foreign minister, the Honorable Kelbone Malope, held a meeting with the South African [RSA] ambassador to Lesotho yesterday to brief him on the latest events taking place on the Lesotho/Matatiele border.

The South African ambassador said in response that the South African Government was aware of the events and was to send the Internal Stability Unit police from Port Elizabeth to help resolve the problems. The Government of Lesotho has also sent a special envoy to President Mandela to make him aware of the souring relations between Lesotho and South Africa. The government will continue to brief the nation on all efforts being taken to redress the situation.

Mozambique

Dhlakama Says Government Forming 'Parallel' Army

MB1608053895 Maputo TVM Television Network in Portuguese 1800 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama has accused the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] government of forming an army parallel to the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces, FADM. According to the Renamo leader, this army is made up of special police forces based in Moamba, Maputo Province. Dhlakama added that those forces operate under a Portuguese mercenary and oppress the local population.

He said this army of 450 men is divided into battalions that go out and beat up as well as kill civilians in Maputo Province's Moamba District. The Renamo leader noted that this is no apolitical force because all its members were formerly in the Frelimo army, and he added it should include former Renamo soldiers if its interests are not just partisan.

He seemed to be especially concerned about the man who leads those Moamba-based forces.

[Begin Dhlakama recording] He served at one time in the Portuguese special forces and he participated in the 25 April 1974 revolution against [former Portuguese Prime Minister] Salazar. This man subsequently settled in Mozambique and obtained artificial Mozambican citizenship. He is Portuguese by birth. He led the special

forces based in the south during the war against Renamo. Those forces had been demobilized in terms of the General Peace Accord. What is beyond my understanding is how these demobilized forces regrouped — they are the very same men and the very same commanders — and formed the notorious special police forces based in Moamba. These forces mistreat the citizens, beat them up, and so on. I know this. I am well informed and I know that there are plans for forming two more such battalions. The second will operate in Sofala Province's Caia District and the third in Zambezia Province's Nioadala District. Well, I am a Mozambican citizen and a politician. Why is Frelimo using its former forces to build a parallel army with the same doctrine, strategies, and aims? I have asked these questions of Mozambican head of state Joaquim Chissano and I asked for that force to be disbanded. If there is the need to create special police forces, let us then do so openly. Let there be consultations. Let soldiers from various backgrounds, including demobilized Renamo soldiers, be part of those forces. [end recording]

The Renamo leader said this was one of the issues he discussed with President Joaquim Chissano at their informal meeting on 12 August. [passage omitted]

Chissano Speaks Against Dependence on Foreign Aid

MB1708121095 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano yesterday appealed for unity among Mozambicans to implement his government's five-year program in order to end the country's dependence on foreign aid. President Chissano was speaking at two public rallies in the northern Province of Nampula where he is ending his working visit today. One rally was held in the town of Murupula, 80 km south of Nampula City, and the other in the locality of Nihessiu, an area that had been largely controlled by the former rebel movement Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] during the war of destabilization.

Chissano said that with the country now at peace and a democratically elected government in place, it was imperative to break with the vicious cycle of foreign dependence, particularly for foodstuffs. He said that Mozambique could end its practice of repeated appeals for aid to the international community if Mozambicans worked in a united fashion around the legally instituted government.

On Tuesday in Zaire, President Chissano blamed Renamo for the delay in rehabilitating infrastructures

in those parts of the country, he said, while controlled militarily.

President Chissano leaves Nampula today for the central Province of Zambezia on a working visit.

Swaziland

Senate Endorses King's Remarks on Multipartyism

MB1508190495 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Senate today passed a motion in which it rallied behind His Majesty King Mswati III's statement that he made in South Africa that Swazis do not want multiparty politics. The Senate was also unanimous in praising the king for honoring the state visit at a time when there was so much negative reporting by the South African press about him.

The motion without notice was moved by Senator Walter Bennett and was seconded by Senator Prince Bhekimphe. Prince Bhekimphe said in this country before any political decision is taken the people are consulted. He said those misinforming foreigners on the system of government should stop forthwith, but instead must advocate for a referendum instead of uttering derogatory remarks.

Senator Obed Dlamini said the timing of the state visit by the king was good, adding that he hopes the relationship will be further strengthened.

21 Percent Drop in Sugar Production Predicted

MB1508191795 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The sugar harvest for this year will be much lower than last year's. This was revealed by the Swaziland Sugar Association's general manager, Mr. Andrew Colin, this afternoon. Colin said that even though the season has not yet ended, experts have estimated that the yield may be around 400,000 tonnes, which is 21 percent lower than last year's yield. He said this may cause some severe effects on the ability to supply local customers. He said they will give first priority to their local wholesale market and then to preferential markets in Europe and America.

Zimbabwe

Government To Launch Drought Recovery Plan

MB1608124495 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1238 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gweru Aug 16 SAPA — The Zimbabwean Government is to spend 100 million

Zimbabwean dollars on a scheme to help small farmers recover from the effects of prolonged drought, ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] news agency reported on Wednesday [16 August].

Agriculture Minister Denis Norman said the government was busy working out a crop package scheme that would go a long way toward helping small farmers recover from the drought if good rains fell in the coming summer. Opening the Zimbabwe National Farmers' Union congress, Norman said government was aware that many small farmers were not in a position to make an input into crops in the coming season. He urged small farmers to use the crop packages to boost production and improve the country's food position.

Three crop package schemes in the form of fertilisers and seeds for planting had been run since the drought of 1991-92. Government was also looking at ways of easing transport and warehousing problems in rural areas, and at a scheme in collaboration with a cold storage company to provide breeding stock to small farmers to boost stock production.

Farmers Urged To Diversify During Drought

*MB1608132395 Harare Zimbabwe National
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1130 GMT 16 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of agriculture, Mr. Denis Norman, says government is taking steps to enable farmers to secure farming inputs.

Officially opening the 56th annual congress of the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union, the ZFU, in Gweru today, Mr. Norman said the majority of communal and small-scale farmers are facing food shortages due to lack of farming inputs. He urged farmers to diversify into cash crops such as tobacco during this period of drought.

Addressing the same meeting, ZFU President Mr. Jerry Magadzire commended the government for coming up with the grain loan scheme. However, he expressed concern that some of the grain is not reaching farmers, and that some people are still being allocated 5 or 10 kilograms of mealie meal.

Cote d'Ivoire

Ouattara Issues Statement on Talks With Bedie

AB1608221895 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN
in French 16 Aug 95 p 4

[Article by Abel Doualy]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Members of the press: I will not make a statement, but I would like you to know that our three-hour meeting with the head of state was very fruitful. We affirmed that we should strive hard to preserve social peace and avoid a political crisis in the country. The discussions are not over. We will meet again in the coming weeks. On my part, I have to return to Washington, because I have other pending commitments there."

This is what former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara officially disclosed to newsmen following his three-hour meeting behind closed doors with the president of the Republic, **Henri Konan Bedie**. The meeting took place from 1900 to 2200 on 14 August at the president's Cocody residence. The former prime minister issued that brief statement at his Cocody residence, where journalists, who had been refused access to the president's residence, rushed in search of a scoop. The correspondents present were from FRATERNITE MATIN, LE JOUR, LE REPUBLICAIN IVOIRIEN, LE POPULAIRE, AFP, BBC, and so on.

Apart from the above-mentioned information, nothing else filtered through on the meeting between the president and the former prime minister. There was no information on the contents of the meeting, the type of meeting it was, or the ranks of those who attended it — either from the president's side or the former prime minister's side. However, we know that in recent statements made by the prime minister on the electoral code in Washington, he described the electoral code as "**iniquitous and unjust**." Mr. Ouattara announced his intention to meet the president of the Republic, so that they could discuss issues concerning the electoral code and Ivorian politics, as well as the general elections scheduled for October, November, and December. The former prime minister and current IMF deputy director general specifically wanted them to meet to discuss the presidential elections. The Rally of Republicans, an opposition party, wishes to present him as its candidate during those elections.

This does not seem possible as things stand now, because Mr. Ouattara, who has reportedly changed nationalities, (Burkinabe and Ivorian) [as published] is hindered by Article 49 of the electoral code, which stipulates that: "**No one can be elected president of the Republic if he is not over 40 years of age, and if he**

is not Ivorian by birth, born to Ivorian parents, who must be Ivorian themselves. He should never have given up the Ivorian nationality. Furthermore, he should have lived in the country for an uninterrupted period of five years prior to the elections (...)"

The last clause, "should have lived in the country for an uninterrupted period of five years prior to the elections" is being interpreted differently by different sections of the public. A section of the public thinks that it does not affect Alassane Ouattara, who they think belongs to the group of "Ivoriens chosen by the Ivorian State to serve on international or multinational organizations." Another section of the public thinks the former prime minister is not representing Cote d'Ivoire at the IMF. This section says he obtained the post through his personal relations with the IMF director general, Mr. Camdessus, and is, therefore, affected by paragraph 3 of Article 49 of the electoral code.

Whatever the case may be, and despite the news blackout, the above-mentioned issues were discussed by the president and Mr. Ouattara. The meeting came some 10 weeks prior to the 22 October presidential elections, and follows their May meeting. Following the president's recent call in Seguela, urging Ivoriens to obey the law and the electoral code, the Ivorian Popular Front has taken a tougher stance, and is threatening — as usual — to "make life difficult for the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire."

Other meetings are planned for the coming weeks. Alassane Ouattara must return to Washington, because he has other pending commitments. We have a little less than 10 weeks to go to the presidential election. The Republican Front is demanding that the negotiations they started a few months ago with the president be continued. The interior minister has announced that voter cards are to be distributed in early September. The president of the Republic intends to round off his national tours before the elections without neglecting his day-to-day affairs, a very busy schedule indeed!

Guinean Soldiers Said To Capture Sipilou Villages

AB1708111395 Abidjan LA VOIE in French
17 Aug 95 p2

[FBIS Translated Text] Soldiers of the Guinean Armed Forces are said to have captured part of the Ivorian territory in the Sipilou sub prefecture a few weeks ago. Inhabitants of three settlements of the Koulale village were driven out and forced to abandon their property in the hands of the invaders, especially their food stocks and plantations.

This information was received on 14 August in Glangouale by the deputy-mayor of Sipilou, Mr. Iba Diomande, at the opening of the Farmers Days activities sponsored by the "Green West" organization.

The Guinean soldiers are reported to have said that the perimeter they captured was part of Guinean territory. It is therefore out of the question to give it up. It is reported that the Ivorian authorities have been informed of the situation. The deputy-mayor of Sipilou said that he met the prefect of Lola (Guinea) who said he would take the necessary measures to bring back peace to the area.

Meanwhile, farmers who have been driven out of their villages are living idly in Koulale. A map of the concerned zone shows that the Ziaba River is a natural and even an administrative border between Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea. The settlements that have been occupied are on Ivorian territory.

Ghana

Students Demonstrate for Reopening of Universities

AB1608211095 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
2000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hundreds of students of the country's universities and other tertiary institutions today staged a demonstration through the major streets of Accra to back their demand for a quick reopening of the universities. The Universities of Ghana, Cape Coast, and Science and Technology have remained closed for about four months, as a result of the protracted negotiations between the government and university lecturers over improved working conditions.

The demonstrations started from the Kwame Nkrumah Circle and ended at the Ministry of Education. Their action brought traffic to a standstill at several points as some of them intermittently sat on the road. The chairman of the press and information department of the National Union of Ghana Students, Mr. Seth Oforihene, was optimistic that the demonstration will result in the early reopening of the universities.

Ashanti Goldfields To Offer New Shares

EA1608212395 Nairobi KNA in English
1518 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Accra, Ghana, 15 August (KNA/PANA) — Ashanti Goldfields Company, AGC, Ghana's biggest goldmine, is placing 3 million new shares on the London and Accra Stock Exchanges to raise about 60 million dollars, according to an official statement in Accra.

The statement said the money will be used to speed up the exploration and development program being undertaken by AGC's subsidiary, Ashanti Exploration Limited, AEL.

The sale will start in London and Accra on 18th and 25th August respectively.

The price has been conditionally placed at 20.75 dollars per share.

This new share offer brings the interests of Lonrho [as received] and the Ghana Government to 41.4 percent and 28.8 percent respectively. The directors of the company have subscribed in aggregate for 3,410 shares.

"This program focuses on prospects outside the company's core operations at Obuasi...", the statement said.

Part of the amount will be directed to principal gold evaluation targets at Kalani in Mali, Mandiana in Guinea, Bambadji in Senegal and Midras and Miradani in Ghana.

The balance of the proceeds will be used to establish and conduct exploration on its own and through joint ventures.

AGC is targeting a production of one million ounces of gold this year.

Niger

Agreement Signed With Ghanaian Goldmining Firm

AB1708101095 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Republic of Niger and Ashanti Goldfields Corporation of Ghana this morning signed an agreement on gold mining prospectation. The agreement, which is the fifth one so far, will enable the Ghanaian company to carry out gold mining prospectation in the Saoura region for a period of three years.

According to Mines and Energy Minister Issouffou Assoumane, the prospectation license, which has been granted to the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, will have direct consequences on the national economy. Thus, nearly \$4 million, or the equivalent of about 2 billion CFA francs, will be channeled into the gold mining prospectation, which will last three years.

Nigeria

Liberian Faction Leaders Absent; Talks Delayed

AB1608134995 *Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English*
1030 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More representatives of the Liberian factions have arrived in Abuja, Nigeria, for peace talks beginning later today. Only the leaders of two of the factions have been awaited. These are Alhaji Koromah of the ULIMO-K faction [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] and Dr. George Boley of the Liberian Peace Council. The talks earlier scheduled to begin in the morning, have been delayed for a few hours because of the late arrival of Alhaji Koromah and Dr. Boley.

The main issue before the factions, is the selection of the chairman of the proposed Liberia Interim Council.

Minister Denies Transitional Rule Extension

AB1608214095 *Lagos NTA Television Network in English* 2000 GMT 16 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The attorney general of the federation and minister of justice, Chief Michael Agbamuche, said today that the Federal Government has extended the deadline for the release of the transition to civil rule program.

Reacting to some newspaper reports, which credited him with the statement that the deadline may be extended, he said that he was grossly misquoted. Chief Agbamuche said the head of state is confident that the Provisional Ruling Council would finalize its work and endorse an acceptable constitution before the October deadline.

Sierra Leone

Strasser Opens National Conference on War

AB1508162695 *Paris AFP in English*
1452 GMT 15 Aug 95

[By Rod MacJohnson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, Aug 15 (AFP) — The head of Sierra Leone's military junta told a national conference here Tuesday [15 August] that the four-year civil war "remains the largest single obstacle to the democratic process."

Speaking at the opening of the three-day event, Captain Valentine Strasser repeated that his government was prepared at any time to open peace talks with the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), despite their rejection of an invitation to attend the meeting.

The meeting has been organised to discuss the practicalities of holding elections at the end of this year in the war-torn state, as the military government has proposed.

"We are prepared any day anywhere to sit around the table and begin unconditional talks with the rebel movement about the need for a general cessation of hostilities," Strasser said.

The meeting began around 10 a.m. (1000 GMT) at a conference centre at Freetown's exclusive Lumley Beach, in pre-war days a popular holiday spot for visiting wealthy tourists.

According to the Interim National Electoral Commission (INEC), 155 delegates finally took part although approximately another 250 "observers" were allowed in on condition they paid their own expenses.

INEC chairman James Jonah reflected Strasser's theme in suggesting peace would be unobtainable without genuine peace talks between the government and rebels.

"Unless the RUF is willing to sit for round table talks, peace will remain a mirage," Jonah said.

Jonah said late Monday that an invitation to the meeting had been sent to RUF through a third party, but no reply had been received.

The delegates were Tuesday afternoon to break up into groups to discuss various issues concerning the return to a civilian government. Jonah urged delegates to "avoid the influence of money, bribery and corruption in their discussions."

Strasser's government has promised to hand over to an elected administration in early 1996 following elections at the end of this year.

But with nearly 40 percent of the West African country's 4.5 million people currently displaced, many observers feel the only form of election that could be organised would be a highly modified form of proportional representation.

Many Sierra Leoneans feel the vote should be postponed until the war is over.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) representative Elizabeth Lwanga said the UN was backing the conference as "a reaffirmation of its support for Sierra Leone's March toward multi-party democracy."

The meeting is set to continue until Thursday. Among those taking part are representatives of student organisations, universities, trade unions, women's organisations, traditional chiefs and Sierra Leonean refugees in neighbouring Guinea and Liberia.

Three days of registration of political parties ended Monday with 17 parties provisionally registered, among them the All People's Congress (APC), the one-time

sole party which was overthrown by junior Army officers in a coup on April 29, 1992.

That coup brought the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) government led by Strasser to power. The NPRC immediately banned all political parties, only lifting the ban in June this year in the run-up to the proposed vote.

RUF leader Foday Sankoh launched his rebellion in the extreme southeast of the country in late March 1991, initially in a bid to overthrow former president Joseph Momoh, who fled to neighbouring Guinea at the time of the coup and is still living there.

The war has claimed over 10,000 lives, according to official figures.

Conference Debates Election Dates

AB1608183095 Paris AFP in English
1814 GMT 16 Aug 95

[By Rod MacJohnson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, Aug 16 (AFP) — A national conference in war-torn Sierra Leone was locked in debate Wednesday [16 August] over whether or not elections should go ahead at the end of this year as planned, delegates said.

Conference sources told AFP outside the closed-door meeting that 17 political parties "provisionally" registered have been pushing for them to go ahead despite the continuing civil war.

However, other groups including trades unions, women's groups, students and traditional chiefs from war-affected areas have been making "persistent" calls for a postponement, they said.

Eddie Turay, secretary-general of the former sole party the All People's Congress [APC], said that despite the continuing war against rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) the vote should go ahead.

"The APC is serious about ending the war but we want elections now," he said, a view echoed by other politicians.

The military junta headed by Captain Valentine Strasser overthrew the APC in a coup on April 29, 1992 and immediately banned political parties. The ban was lifted in June in the run-up to the proposed vote.

Strasser's regime has pledged to hand over to an elected government in early 1996 after elections in December. Three days of registration ended on Monday with 17 groupings, most of them new, "provisionally" registered.

National Council for Democracy (NCD) president, university lecturer Kadi Sesay, told the conference Wednesday the elections should be postponed "until the first half of 1996".

Sesay told AFP in an interview during a conference break that the current plans for elections in December followed by the swearing in of a civilian president in January constituted "a nonachievable timeframe."

Chief Thallan Turay of Makeni, 140 kilometres (85 miles) northeast of Freetown, pointed out that most of his own people were displaced.

"Who would they vote for when they are going hungry? Let the war end," Turay said.

The leader of a delegation from Pujehun, 210 kilometres (130 miles) southeast of Freetown, said over 38,000 people in his district alone were currently displaced.

"Others are dying of starvation, so let the war end," Ahmed Massaquoi said.

Delegates also expressed deep disappointment at the rebel RUF's refusal to attend the meeting, despite an invitation through a third party.

"They should have at least come to the conference for us to hear their views," one said.

They have also been debating whether voters will be safe from rebel attack on the day of the proposed vote and how the authorities will ensure security. The conference, being held at a conference centre in Freetown's plush Lumley Beach area, is due to close Thursday evening.

Observers here have repeatedly expressed doubt about whether it is possible for Sierra Leone to hold free and fair elections with nearly 40 percent of its 4.5 million people currently displaced by the four-year-old war.

Rebel leader and renegade corporal Foday Sankoh began his rebellion in the extreme southeast of the country in late March 1991, taking over much of the south and east of the country, before an army fightback in 1993.

The man Sankoh originally wanted to overthrow, former president and APC leader Joseph Momoh, fled to Guinea when junior officers disgruntled with his leadership of the war staged the 1992 coup. He is still there, living in exile.

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